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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 YEREVAN 001002

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EUR/CACEN ESIDEREAS

E.O. 12598: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [PGOV](#) [AM](#)

SUBJECT: MFA PRESENTS FACT SHEET ON ARMENIA-NATO COOPERATION

1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

2. (SBU) The Head of the NATO Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hrachia Tashchian, presented us with the Ministry's "Fact Sheet on Cooperation of Armenia with NATO and its Participation in the Partnership for Peace Programme." Tashchian told us that Foreign Minister Oskanian believed that increased cooperation with NATO should be one of the highest priorities of Armenian foreign policy. Tashchian said that he had been tasked with developing further plans for increased NATO engagement, and had prepared the document as an initial briefing for diplomats, parliamentarians, and government officials.

3. (SBU) Begin text of MFA document:

Fact Sheet on Cooperation of Armenia with NATO and its Participation in the Partnership for Peace Programme

Armenia is an active NATO partner. In 2003, high-ranking NATO officials praised Armenia as the most improved nation in terms of dynamics of partnership and cooperation. Most Armenia-NATO activities fall under the Partnership for Peace programme.

Main Armenia-NATO agreements include:

- In October 2002, Armenia joined the Planning and Review Process (PARP) programme, in which 21 countries participate today. Armenia participates in PARP with one motorized infantry battalion, as well as one combat engineer platoon, three combat support platoons, one NBC detection team, one logistic company, and one medical platoon.

- In 2003, Armenia made a decision to participate in NATO-led peacekeeping operation in Kosovo (KFOR). Since February 2004, a platoon of thirty-four peacekeepers from the Armenian Armed Forces is operating as part of the Greek forces of the U.S.-led multinational brigade in KFOR.

- Armenia has taken a decision to participate in peacekeeping and reconstruction in Iraq by allocating forces to the military contingent headed by Poland and operating with NATO assistance. Armenia is planning the deployment of a transport platoon, and one team of de-mining engineers, and a medical unit to Iraq during 2004.

- In 2003, Armenia signed the PfP Status of forces Agreement (SOFA), which was ratified by the National Assembly of Armenia 30 March 2004.

Each year, Armenia participates in several events within the PfP framework, including military exercises, training programmes and seminars. Some highlights include the following:

- In 2003, Armenia host the NATO Cooperative Best Effort 2003 Military Exercises, in which 19 states participated.

- Armenia intends to participate in the NATO Cooperative Best Effort 2004 Military Exercises to be hosted by Azerbaijan in September 2004.

- In 2000-2003, Armenia hosted three international seminars organized by NATO, in which representatives from 25 ally and partner states participated. An October 2002 seminar, Fight Against International Terrorism: Perspectives for Regional Cooperation, was the largest seminar organized by NATO in the Southern Caucasus.

- In 2000-2003, Armenian non-governmental organizations held a dozen NATO sponsored seminars and workshops aimed at promoting civil society in Armenia, as well as disseminating reliable information on the role and policies of NATO and generating open debate about the security in the region of the Southern Caucasus.

- Armenian scientific establishments and individual scientists are active participants of the NATO Science Programme. Computer networking programme "Virtual Silk Highway"- the most significant project launched by NATO in the Southern Caucasus- has been implementing in Armenia since January of 2003.

Armenia maintains a regular high-level dialogue with NATO, specifically:

- Between 2001-2003, the NATO Secretary-General visited Armenia twice and the Armenia President visited NATO headquarters twice.

- NATO-Armenia individual consultations have been held annually since 2001 between the delegations headed by NATO's Assistant Secretary-General and Armenia's Deputy Foreign minister.

Armenia has recently appointed a Military Representative to NATO. He will start performing his duties on 1 May 2004. In addition, Armenia's President has approved the appointment of an Ambassador specifically to NATO. This appointment is expected in mid-2004. Until then, Armenia's ambassador to the EU will continue to maintain his NATO portfolio, through Armenia's Mission to NATO.

Armenia attaches great importance to the establishment of individual relations with NATO seeking its support and advice in reforming and modernizing defense and security systems. Participation in the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) is being considered as the most relevant mechanism to reach this goal. In this regard, Armenia intends to start negotiations on the elaboration of Armenia's IPAP shortly after the submission of the official application, which is expected in the near future.

End text.
WALKER